

Louis Agassiz Renaming Discussion

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Louis Agassiz Renaming Discussion

Namesake

- Studied fossils in Northern Arizona in 1867
- Harvard professor who tried to validate polygenism
 - A belief that “races” of people that could be ranked by development, with white Europeans at the top
- Polygenism was used by proponents of slavery

Local Actions Taken

- NAU changed room name from Agassiz to Marshall (2015)
- Renaming of City Manager award (2019)
- Efforts by Flag High students to rename Agassiz Peak (2020)



The Agassiz Name in Flagstaff

Street Renaming Process

Steps to consider

1. Communication with affected property owners/ public participation
2. Creation of new street name
3. Council action to rename street
4. Approval from Emergency Response, County & Postal Service
5. Update Streets data and replace street signs
6. Time-window for property owners to change personal files
7. Decommission old addresses



Agassiz Street

- Total of 116 addresses
 - 71% residential
 - 24% commercial
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- Multiple businesses have incorporated the Agassiz name into their official business name

| Property Use | User Group | # of Addresses |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| Single family/ townhouse/ condos | Residential | 82 |
| Office buildings/ restaurants/ bars/ misc. | Commercial | 28 |
| County/ Federal Lands | Other | 2 |
| Vacant land | Vacant land | 4 |
| Total Addresses | | 116 |

Potential Costs

- Street name signs
- Updating and possible printing of new city maps
- Potential compensation for affected property owners
 - To change stationary, checks, title deed registrations, etc.
- Advertisement of new name
- Staff time



Questions/ Council Direction

